SHADOW RAIDERS I

Episode 3
'Born In Fire'

ENGLISH DIALOGUE SCRIPT

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET FIRE - DAY

PUSH IN over smoldering VOLCANOES and a burning LAVA RIVER to the spectacular LAVA FALLS. A crusted-over bridge spans its apex. PUSH IN to PRINCE PYRUS, standing atop it holding his fighting staff.

Suddenly, he is action: He snaps the pole out like a fighting staff. <GRUNTING> He smashes it here. There. Again and again.

He slams the pole straight up on the bridge and SPINS around it, KICKING out at unseen enemies. Then he TOSSES the pole up, does a somersault, and a back-flip back into position as the pole falls back, he catches it perfectly.

GRAND VIZIER
(shouting o.s.)
(1) My Prince--

PYRUS reacts to the sound of the VIZIER's voice. He turns and smiles.

PYRUS
(2) I was wondering when you'd find me.

The GRAND VIZIER angrily walks up to Pyrus.

GRAND VIZIER
(3) Why must you continue to play such foolish games?

PYRUS
(4) What can I say? It's a fun way to blow off steam.

The Vizier grabs the staff from Pyrus.

GRAND VIZIER
(5) You know what I mean. I just heard you plan to allow that Ice trash, Cryos, to come to our world.

Pyrus grabs the staff back and starts to practice again.

PYRUS
(6) He called, I said yes. What's the big deal?

GRAND VIZIER
(barely containing himself)
(7) Our worlds have been at war for centuries. This is not for you alone to decide. Our law dictates...

Pyrus stops playing and interrupts the Vizier.

PYRUS
(8) You forget, as prince, I am the law.

The Vizier bows his head.

GRAND VIZIER
(9) Apologies, young sire. It's just... with your father gone, you are my responsibility. I thought I'd taught you better.

Pyrus smiles at the older man.

PYRUS
(10) You taught me just fine. But, if you want me to be king, I've got learn to act like one.

GRAND VIZIER
(11) But now's not the time to start. You're far from ready, and they are our greatest enemies.

Pyrus collapses his staff and attaches it to his belt. They begin to walk off together.

PYRUS
(12) You'll be with me, right? Just 'cause I'm young, I don't think Cryos will treat me any differently.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET ICE - ATOP THE ROYAL PALACE - LANDING SITE

Cryos and Zera stand outside The IMPERIAL ICE CRUISER AURORA while Jade and Graveheart watch from the hatchway.

CRYOS
(13) I'm sorry, but diplomatic missions are no place for children.

ZERA
(14) But, father...you need me.

Just then a slew of ND Ice Warriors carrying large trunks past a confused Cryos, Graveheart and Jade.

CRYOS
(15) What are you doing?

ZERA
(16) Having my luggage put on board.
(to O.S. Warrior)
Careful. That's very fragile.

<CRASH> She looks OS and grimaces. Something fell. She moves to see what happened.

CRYOS
(17) Have I been talking to myself?

Cryos looks up at Graveheart and Jade, both look away and pretend to be busy. Cryos decides to take Zera aside for a tete-a-tete.

CRYOS
(18) I need you to stay here. My world would have no meaning if I lost you. Besides, you're still too young.

Zera goes wide-eyed, playing the cute daughter role to perfection. Then the ICE GUARDS approach.

ZERA
(19) I'm not too young and I reeeeally want to go.
(then, seeing the Ice Guards)
Why, thank you Father. I would be honored to accompany you on this service to our people.

As Zera regally enters the ship, Cryos turns to Graveheart and Jade.

CRYOS
(20) Our royal standing forbids me from berating her in public.

Jade pushes past them all.

JADE
(21) Just keep her out of my way.

The Ice Guards salute as Cryos enters. Jade and Graveheart follow. The ship engines roar, then the Aurora VTOL's OS.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL BLADEWING- CONTINUOUS

Cyros, Jade and Graveheart sit at control center. Cryos places a finger on a sensor and a nanite mist blows over him.

COMPUTER (mechanical)
(22) Environmental conditioning complete.

Graveheart moves to get comfortable.

GRAVEHEART
(23) This will be my first trip to Planet Fire in years.

CRYOS
(24) Is that because you specialized in raiding my planet?

GRAVEHEART
(25) Look. I said I was sorry.

CRYOS
(26) I believe you said it was only business, just like our trip here.

GRAVEHEART
(27) So when were you last on Fire, so to speak?

CRYOS
(28) During the Golden Jubilation.

GRAVEHEART
(29) Ooooh. That's right. The Cluster's last true chance at peace. (pause) What went wrong?

CRYOS
(30) What didn't? It was a... difficult moment. One, I'm sure, the Grand Vizier remembers quite well.

GRAVEHEART
(31) Think he'll be a problem?

CRYOS
(32) Let's say he is excitable, even by Fire's standards.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET FIRE- LANDING SITE

The Grand Vizier stands next to Prince Pyrus. Pyrus is excited by his visitors' imminent arrival. The Vizier turns to the nearby guards. They cock their weapons.

GRAND VIZIER
(33) We are ready for their treachery, my prince.

The Vizier pulls his knife as he sees the Aurora come into view.

PYRUS
(34) Easy. Easy. They're here to end a war, not start one.

GRAND VIZIER
(35) When insects are involved, one can never be sure.

The Aurora lands. King Cryos exits, followed by Graveheart and Jade. Guards block their way as the Vizier watches.

GRAND VIZIER
(36) Ice and Rock standing together? Treachery! Guards!

CRYOS
(37) Vizier. Haven't we already played this scene?

The guards turn their weapons on our heroes, Graveheart steps forward.

GRAVEHEART
(38) Please. Lower your weapons.

Pyrus stares at the Vizier.

PYRUS
(in Graveheart's face)
(39) Do as he says. Who are you, man of Rock? Why are you here?

GRAVEHEART
(40) Names Graveheart and I'm travelling with King Cryos.

PYRUS
(41) Why you and not your king?

Graveheart is made uncomfortable by the question and Cryos steps in.

CRYOS
(42) You know King Mantel, Nothing can pry him from his throne.

Jade is angered by this whole exchange.

JADE
(43) We've no time for this. Let's go.

Pyrus now turns to the Vizier.

PYRUS
(44) And they say we're hotheaded?

Pyrus turns to his guests and gestures grandly.

PYRUS
(45) Why don't we talk about this back at the palace?

Everyone moves to follow.

ANGLE ON THE ROYAL BLADEWING

LADY ZERA sticks her head out.

ZERA
(46) Not without me you don't!

Zera runs to her father.

CRYOS
(47) This is my daughter, the Lady Zera.

Zera bows to the crowd, then she gives Pyrus a look and turns to her father.

ZERA
(48) I thought you said no kids allowed.

Pyrus does a slow burn and his head burns hotter.

INT. THRONE ROOM - MINUTES LATER

A HOLOGRAM of Beast Drones shimmers before Graveheart, Jade, Pyrus, the Vizier, Cryos and Zera - both uncomfortably hot - who sit about the grand table, as Graveheart finishes.

GRAVEHEART (finishing)
(49) All our peoples combined are still out numbered by the beast drones. But even they pale against the power of the Beast Planet.

PYRUS
(50) I’m not worried. Planet Fire has held its own against any foe and beaten them. Another day, another threat, another dog sent running.

Take on Vizier giving Cryos a big smile. Cryos looks back impassively.

GRAVEHEART
(51) I hope for your sake you’re right, because this is a menace that can destroy us all.

CRYOS
(52) To survive we must all stand together.

GRAND VIZIER
(interrupting)
(53) Well, if it’s our allegiance you crave. Perhaps a test is needed to prove your worthiness.

Pyrus looks at the Vizier.

PYRUS
(54) The Trial by Fire?
GRAND VIZIER
(cryptic smile)
(55) Precisely.

LADY ZERA is very much afraid as Cryos stares at Graveheart. What have they gotten themselves into?

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. VOLCANO BASE - SOON AFTER

Graveheart and Cryos stand at the crusted base of a smoldering volcano. Lava trickles down the side and oozes toward them. Zera stands by her father. Jade stands by Graveheart.

GRAVEHEART
(to Jade)

(56) Don’t worry. It can’t be as bad as it looks.

JADE
(57) How can I protect you when you keep taking stupid chances?

GRAVEHEART
(58) If the job was easy, anyone could do it. Wait for me here, I’ll be back.

The Vizier moves between them.

GRAND VIZIER
(59) Don’t worry. She’s not going anywhere.

The guards move in on Jade.

JADE
(60) Don’t even think about it.

GRAVEHEART
(61) Jade, for once, don’t hurt anybody...please?

She VERY RELUCTANTLY lets the Guards accompany her OS.

JADE
(62) No promises.

The Vizier holds up his staff like MOSES. Fire shoots from its tip, opening a door at the base of the volcano.

GRAND VIZIER
(63) To pass the Trial, you need only follow the sacred path.

Graveheart turns to Cryos.

GRAVEHEART
(64) How are you holding up?

CRYOS
(65) How I feel is not important in the face of the task at hand.

Smoke pours from open door. Cryos moves in, his knees buckle slightly from the heat. Zera REACTS.

ZERA
(66) Please, Father...you can’t.

Cryos kisses her on her forehead.

CRYOS
(67) For the good of us all, I must.

They walk toward the opening. The doors slam behind them.

ZERA
(screaming)
(68) Father! No!

She spins angrily to look at Pyrus. Pyrus can't meet her gaze and walks away.

INT. VOLCANIC MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Cryos and Graveheart stand at the end of a LONG MAZE-LIKE CORRIDOR. High walls mark their path. The ground ahead is alive with erupting fire, no one knows where the flames will shoot up next. Each blast is PRECEDED by a WHOOSH of IGNITING GAS. A blast explodes directly in front of them. Cryos is staggered by the sudden rushes of heat.

GRAVEHEART
(69) This is ridiculous There's no way you can survive this.

CRYOS
(70) I will...because I must. Now, do you wish to lead or shall I?

Both Graveheart and Cryos jump over the streaming lava. Cryos manages to barely grab the ledge. Graveheart pulls him to safety.

CRYOS
(71) Let us...move on.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRE PALACE THRONE ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Pyrus walks in. He's deep in thought. Then--

ZERA (OS)
(72) Pyrus, I want my father out of that sweathole -- and I mean now.

Zera enters, angry, as Pyrus turns to face her.

PYRUS
(73) Who gave <u>you</u> permission to enter?

She steps right up to him, nose-to-nose.

ZERA

(74) I don't need permission. I'm royalty too. So if my father gets hurt, I promise you won't live to regret it.

PYRUS
(75) It's out of my hands. Besides, it was his choice, remember?

Pyrus is backed up against a wall.

ZERA
(76) Maybe I should stick your father in an ice canyon?

Pyrus is taken aback, then stabs his finger at her.

PYRUS
(77) My fa... Get out of here. This is my palace, and we'll do things my way.

He stalks out. Zera is furious, and takes off after him.

CUT TO:

INT. VOLCANIC MAZE - CONTINUOUS

They run to the end of the fiery eruptions only to find a steep BURNING INCLINE. They have to climb up. Cryos pauses to catch his breath.

GRAVEHEART
(78) Is there anything I can do?

CRYOS
(79) Yes, stop asking. Your repeated questions only draw attention to this unbearable heat.

ANGLE ON THE FIRE MOUNTAIN

Graveheart starts up the incline, he turns and offers Cryos his hand. Cryos straightens up and begins to walk past Graveheart.

CRYOS (cont'd)
(80) Let us proceed with haste.

Graveheart smiles and follows.

GRAVEHEART
(81) As you say...your majesty.

WIPE TO:

EXT. PLANET FIRE - BRIDGE OVER THE LAVA FALLS - SIMULTANEOUS

A narrow walkway of crust bridges the apex of the falls, as Pyrus practices his acrobatic moves with his pole.

ZERA (OS)
(82) Don’t you walk away from me. We’re not done talking.

A sweating Zera enters, unsteadily crossing the bridge.

PYRUS
(83) Get off my bridge. You don’t belong here.

ZERA
(84) And my Father doesn’t belong inside that volcano.

Pyrus turns, accidentally hitting her with the pole.

PYRUS
(85) You’re starting to get on my nerves.

ZERA
(86) Just starting? I must be slipping.

She loses her balance and begins to fall from the bridge.

Pyrus panics and reaches out. He grabs her hand and it causes each of them pain.

ZERA
(87)
(painful screech)

PYRUS
(88) Are you okay?

ZERA
(89) I’m fine...no thanks to you.

She looks at her hand.

ZERA (cont’d)
(90) I hate you, and I hate your stupid bridge.

She considers what she said and looks over the bridge.

ZERA
(91) What’s so special about it anyhow?

PYRUS
(92) Not that it matters to you, but my...father used to bring me here when I was a kid.

Zera cocks an eyebrow at him, curiously.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(93) He always said from here you could see all the beauty of our Planet. Sometimes I...come here to think.

ZERA
(94) Where is your father? and why can't he stop this stupid trial?

Pyrus pauses, a TEAR wells in his eye. Zera understands, and her attitude softens.

ZERA
(95) I'm sorry--I didn't think.

He's angry.

PYRUS
(96) That's right, you didn't!

He turns to walk away from her again.

PYRUS' POV - THE BASE OF THE HILL

A small army of BEAST DRONES is marching toward them, obviously an advance guard.

PYRUS
(97) What's that?

REVERSE ANGLE

Pyrus and Zera are staring OS in horror.

ZERA
(98) Beast Drones?

THE BEAST DRONES

The drones turn, pointing to them and begin firing.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

LOW ANGLE INSIDE THE FIRE MOUNTAIN

Graveheart and Cyros have to cross a river of lava by stepping on protruding stones. The exit looms on the other side. Seems easy enough. They start across. As they get half way across, something starts to rise out of the lava behind them.

CRYOS
(100) Given our current situation, my only comfort is the knowledge that my daughter is safe.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HILLS

Beast Drones rush up the hill, firing. Zera and Pyrus race over the crest as the hill EXPLODES under them.

EXT. TOP OF HILL

Lady Zera FALLS as the hill gives way. They both tumble down the other side.

PYRUS
(101) Come one! We've got to get to the Palace.

ZERA
(102) Lead the way!

They scramble down the hill. PUSH BACK as the Beast Drones rise over the crest like a swarm. They fire O.S.

ANGLE ON LAVA FORMATIONS IN VALLEY

Pyrus and Zera race past one as Drone Fire destroys it. Another large formation CRASHES down in front of them. On its side it's about ten feet high, and much too high to jump. They look for another way out.

REVERSE ANGLE

The Beast Drones move in, firing. No escape that way.

RESUME

Fire explodes everywhere; they're trapped. Pyrus pulls off his staff and pole vaults to the top of the collapsed rock formation.

PYRUS
(103) This way!

Pyrus, from the top of the rock offers his hand for help but she refuses. Bug-like, she leaps over the rocks. Landing next to him, she gives him a look.

ZERA
(104) No offense.

Suddenly, the formation EXPLODES and the Beast Drones push through the rubble in deadly pursuit. They FIRE and debris hits Pyrus in the shoulder. Zera REACTS.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(106)
(painful groan)

CUT TO:

INT. LARGE CAVERN

Graveheart and Cryos react to a low growling sound and turn to find themselves being pursued by the LAVA DOGS. They are closing in for the kill. Graveheart and Cryos start to leap forward, from rock to rock.

GRAVEHEART
(107) What are they?

CRYOS
(108) I believe they're called Lava Dogs.

Graveheart gives them a look, and then back to Cryos.

GRAVEHEART
(109) You wouldn't happen to have any biscuits on you, would ya?

The dogs start to gain on them. Cryos stops to catch his breath. Graveheart, several steps ahead, also stops and calls to his friend.

CRYOS
(111) Go ahead. I'll be fine.

Graveheart comes back to Cryos, and helps him onward.

GRAVEHEART
(112) Then we'll be fine together.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET FIRE - LAVA ARCH FORMATION - CONTINUOUS

Pyrus is down, Zera beside him, almost touching the wound but she pulls back, looks OS then back at Pyrus.

PYRUS
(113)
(painful groans)

ZERA
(114) This may hurt a little.

Pyrus is in terrible pain, but he nods, if only barely.

A Beast Drone point man' scouts ahead, weapon in hand. He's heading for the arch and will soon see them.

Zera opens her mouth and SPITS a stream of her NANO-PROBES onto Pyrus's arm, covering his wound.

PYRUS
(115) Hey! Stop that, it hurts! Wh-what are you doing? Yuck! That's disgusting.

ZERA
(118) Now stay cool. Or hot. Whatever.
PUSH IN. The nanoprobes begin healing Pyrus's wound.
Zera gives him a look and smiles, then she looks back...sees the Drone marching through. She glances back at Pyrus, the nanoprobes still doing their job.
The Drone moves under the arch, rounding it. As he sees Pyrus on the ground, we see Zera has climbed to the top of the arch - she's in some pain. It whips out its weapon...
Zera franticly searches for a weapon or something to throw. Picking up a rock, she throws it at the oncoming drone and smashes at his CONTAINMENT UNIT. He IMPLODES.
Zera runs to Pyrus, who slowly rises. He cautiously checks out his arm: The wound is gone. He's confused.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(surprised)
(116) I-I didn't know you could do that.

ZERA
(117) There's a lot you don't know about my people.

PYRUS
(119) How'd you stop that thing?

ZERA
(120) They may be null matter, but their containment fields aren't.

Suddenly, Drone fire surrounds them. Pyrus picks up his staff.

PYRUS
(121) That's all I needed to know.

Pyrus leaps into battle using his staff to destroy the drone containment units.

CUT TO:

INT. VOLCANIC CORE - CONTINUOUS

Lava Dogs continue to close in on our heroes.

CRYOS' POV - THE CEILING - STALACTITES

Hundreds of stalactites crowd the ceiling. Each is hollow, fireballs forming inside them like water drips in a faucet.

RESUME

Graveheart moves in front of his weakened friend, standing between him and the dogs. Graveheart snaps off a stalagmite from the ground and swings it like a club to keep the dogs at bay.

GRAVEHEART
(122) This won't hold them long.

CRYOS
(123) Perhaps there is one thing to be done.
Cryos swells up a nanite mist that he plans to release toward the ceiling. Graveheart sees this and is very concerned.

GRAVEHEART
(124) Your nanites? But without them you'll...

CRYOS
(125) It appears we're out of choices.

Cryos fires a spray of nanites at the ceiling. The ceiling begins to freeze and the stalactites start to snap and fall.

They begin to rain down, separating them from the lava dogs. They have a clear path to the exit but Cryos is too weak to

move. Graveheart carries the unconscious Cryos out of imminent danger.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET FIRE - LAVA ARCH FORMATION - CONTINUOUS

Pyrus and Zera continue to battle the beast drones. Suddenly, they are being swarmed by charging beast drones.

PYRUS
Back to the bridge!!

FIRE FALLS - LAVA BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Pyrus and Zera race onto the bridge, Beast Drone fire on all sides of them. Pyrus blasts several but they are clearly outnumbered. WIDEN. Pyrus and Zera are halfway across the bridge now. He turns to Zera.

PYRUS
(126) Trust me?

ZERA
(127) Guess I have to now.

Together, they JUMP off the side of the bridge. The Lava Falls are directly below.

The Beast Drone army stops, looking down.

THE BEAST DRONES' POV

No bodies have fallen to the falls below. Then, suddenly, blasts shoot up from UNDER THE BRIDGE. Beast Drones are blasted off the Bridge and fall into the lava far below.

BELOW THE BRIDGE

Pyrus and Zera both balanced on a small OUTCROPPING on the underside of the bridge. Pyrus swings his staff and knocks out one of the underpinnings.

PYRUS
(128) Forgive me, Father.

Suddenly, the bridge starts to rattle and fall apart with the drones on it.

ON THE BRIDGE

The Bridge CRACKS begin to SPLIT it. The Beast Drones mindlessly keep firing even as the bridge CRACKS and the

Drones and the shattered lava crumble, falling into the burning river below.

Pyrus and Zera hold onto the ledge, Pyrus looking like he's lost his best friend. Zera feels compassion.

ZERA
(129) I know that place was special to you.

Zera offers a hand to Pyrus. They go to touch but stop short.

JADE (OS)
(130) GET DOWN!

Suddenly, a beam SIZZLES PAST THEM. They turn and see Jade running, firing past them. A half-dozen more Beast Drones are moving in, but Jade rushes forward, firing. She somersaults, flips, dodges their blasts, blasting their containment units, imploding all of them.

She stands staring at the smoky remains as Zera and Pyrus rush to her. Zera HUGS her.

ZERA
(131) Jade!

Jade pushes her away, then signals for them to follow.

JADE
(132) I got tired of waiting.

ZERA
(133) Any word of my father?

Jade gives a dour look.

CUT TO:

INT. VOLCANIC CORE - CONTINUOUS

Graveheart, holding Cryos, makes it through the collapsing ceiling and heads toward the exit.

CRYOS
(134) Leave me...and save yourself.

GRAVEHEART
(135) Now it's your turn to stop asking.

They reach the door and Graveheart kicks it open. They exit the maze.

INT. ROYAL FIRE PALACE - THRONE ROOM

They enter, the VIZIER, and more GUARDS waiting inside.

GRAVEHEART
(136) Sorry we're late. The traffic was murder.

GRAND VIZIER
(137) Can it be?!? The insect and the rock hound! You survived. But how?

CRYOS
(138) That does not matter. What does is that we have passed your test and earned your allegiance.

GRAND VIZIER
(139) Never!

PYRUS (OS)
(interrupting)
(140) You do not speak for the Prince.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(to the Vizier)
(141) We'd be happy to join the alliance, <u>isn't</u> that what you were going to say?

Vizier is trapped. He nods, of course, but he's not happy.

Pyrus, Jade and Zera enter through the front doors. Zera rushes to Cryos, who hugs her.

ZERA
(142) Father! I was so worried. After Pyrus and I fought the Beast Drones, I was sure --

CRYOS
(143) You and Pyrus...Beast Drones? What is going on here?

Acting as regally as he can, Pyrus steps forward.

PYRUS
(144) It's a long story, but if you're anything like you're daughter, the Beast Planet doesn't stand a chance.

Pull out of Planet Fire

FADE OUT.

END EPISODE

CAST LIST

REGULAR CAST:

GRAVEHEART

JADE

CRYOS

ZERA

PYRUS

GRAND VIZIER

GUEST CHARACTERS:

COMPUTER (mechanical voice) - 1 line